

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 DODE-00
DLOS-09 /047 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TRA/MA:REJOHE:PJP

APPROVED BY EB/TRA:JATWOOD

DMAHC:OLMARTIN

L/EB:JBELLO

MARAD:IPHILLIPS (INFO)

EUR/NE:EBEIGEL

OPNAV:DSTUMBAUGH (INFO)

EUR/NE:SWORREL

DLOS:MMETELITS

-----017852 290310Z /66

P 290207Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 079984

GENEVA PASS LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SENV, UK, FR, LOS

SUBJECT: AMOCO CADIZ

REF: (A) DMAHC 250147Z MARCH; (B) DMAHC 272005Z MARCH;
(C) DMAHC 271943Z MARCH.

SUMMARY: FRENCH NOTE VERBALE CONCERNING AMOCO CADIZ
PRESENTED TO DEPARTMENT MARCH 24 AND WAS BROADCAST TO ALL
MARINERS AS REFS A AND B. FOLLOW-UP SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS
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ISSUED BY THE GOF BROADCAST AS REF C. DEPARTMENT WILL
STUDY NOTE AND MAKE APPROPRIATE REPLY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 24, MR. BERNARD DU CHAFFAUT, SECOND SECRETARY,
EMBASSY OF FRANCE, PRESENTED THE DEPARTMENT (EB/TRA/MA)
WITH A NOTE VERBALE CONCERNING THE AMOCO CADIZ.
REFS A AND B QUOTE THIS NOTE. REF B IS A READDRESSAL

TO GENEVA OF REF A. FYI: LAST SENTENCE PARA 1
REFS A AND B SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE BY DISTRESS
(CASUALTY) IS MEANT ANY INCIDENT WHICH COULD RESULT IN
POLLUTION, OR WHICH WOULD GIVE RISE TO A SITUATION WHERE
IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MANEUVER, WITH SIMILAR
CONSEQUENCES. UNQUOTE. THE CONVENTION REFERRED TO IN THE
NOTE IS THE INTERVENTION ON THE HIGH SEAS IN CASES OF OIL
POLLUTION CASUALTIES (TIAS 8068, 26 UST 765) DONE AT

BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 29, 1969. THE UK, FRANCE AND THE US
ARE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION. REF C IS THE FRENCH RADIO
NAVIGATION WARNINGS RECEIVED BY THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY
HYDROGRAPHIC CENTER (DMAHC) ON MARCH 26. THEY APPEAR TO
BE THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS NOTED REFS A AND B WHICH
IMPLEMENT THE NOTE VERBALE.

2. MR. DU CHAFFAUT EMPHASIZED THAT POLLUTION FROM
THIS ACCIDENT IS UNPRECEDENTED AND WILL CAUSE GREAT HARM
TO THE COAST OF FRANCE, ITS PEOPLE, AND ITS WILD LIFE.
THE US IS JUST ONE OF APPROXIMATELY 30 COUNTRIES TO
RECEIVE THIS DEMARCHE, WHICH IS AN INITIAL RESPONSE TO
THE OCCURRENCE. IN ADDITION, THE MEASURES CONTAINED IN
THE NOTE ARE NOT UNILATERAL LONG-TERM ACTIONS, HE SAID,
BUT RATHER EMERGENCY PROCEDURES BEING ESTABLISHED TO
PREVENT THE RE-OCCURRENCE OF SUCH A DISASTER DURING THE
PERIOD OF TIME PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
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INTERNATIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS COVERING THIS
MATTER WITHIN IMCO OR SIMILAR FORA.

3. IN RESPONSE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MARITIME
AFFAIRS (MR. BANK) INDICATED THE SINCERE CONCERN OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE US IN REGARD TO THE CATASTROPHIC POLLU-
TION WHICH RESULTED FROM THE ACCIDENT AND INDICATED THAT
THE US, TOO, HAS SUFFERED SIMILAR UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCES
IN THE RECENT PAST. HE POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH THE
AMOCO CADIZ IS NOT A US-FLAG VESSEL, WE TOO UNDERSTAND
THE CONCERN OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND WILL BE HAPPY TO
WORK WITH IT IN ANY WAY IN REGARD TO THIS PARTICULAR
INCIDENT AND PREVENTION OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE.
MR. BANK FURTHER NOTED THAT THE UNILATERAL ACTION
DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED NOTE WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED.
IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARGO MERCHANT INCIDENT (JANUARY,
1977), THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WAS ASKED BY
MAJOR TRADING STATES, INCLUDING FRANCE, TO
REFRAIN FROM TAKING UNILATERAL ACTION AND INSTEAD TO
SEEK INTERNATIONAL PREVENTIVE MEASURES WITHIN A MULTI-
LATERAL FORUM SUCH AS IMCO. FINALLY, MR. DU CHAFFAUT WAS
TOLD THAT APPROPRIATE NOTICES TO MARINERS (REFS A, B, AND

C) WOULD BE BROADCAST AND THAT THE NOTE WOULD BE GIVEN
CAREFUL STUDY AND AN APPROPRIATE REPLY MADE.

4. FYI: DEPARTMENT HOPEFULLY WILL RECEIVE BY MARCH 29
STATISTICS ON US-FLAG TRANSITS OF THE ENGLISH CHANNEL
AREA FOR A THREE-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1978.
SUCH INFORMATION, WHICH WILL BE DISPATCHED TO THE POSTS
TO BE USED AS NEEDED, IS POSSIBLY REPRESENTATIVE OF US-FLAG
VESSEL PRESENCE IN THAT AREA. END FYI. COOPER

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